

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 11-12, 25-27, 32-33, 36-37, and 40-42 are pending in this application. None of the claims have been allowed.

At page 2, of the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner identifies the following Restriction Groups:

Group I: Claims 1-3, 10, 13, 14, 25-27, 32 33, 38 and 39 (in-part), drawn to compounds of Formulas (I) wherein R¹ is thiazolyl; R² is -C(=O)_a(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl; and a is 1.

Group II. Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 25-27, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 41, and 42 (in-part), drawn to compounds of formula (I) wherein R¹ is thiazolyl; R² is -C(=O)NR⁵R⁶

Group III. Claims 15-24, 28-31, 34, 35 (in-part) drawn to methods of using compounds of formula (I) wherein R¹ is thiazolyl; R² is -C(=O)_a(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl; and a is 1.

In response, applicants elect Group II (without traverse). Applicants have amended the claims consistent with this election.

Applicants do not see a requirement to elect a single species within the elected Group. Nonetheless, applicants identify the species of Example 3 at page 69 (which is 1-[2-(3-Fluoro-phenyl)-ethyl]-3-(2-thiazol-4-yl-3H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-urea; identified as structure 2-77), should such an election become necessary.

Applicants are reminded that in responding to this restriction requirement, they must identify all of the claims encompassing the elected invention. As the Examiner will appreciate, Example 3, mentioned above, illustrates the following definitions:

R¹ = thiazole,

R² = -(C=O)NR⁵R⁶,

R³ and R⁴ = hydrogen,

one of R⁵ and R⁶ is hydrogen,

the other of R⁵ and R⁶ is -(C=O)_aO_b(C₁₋₁₀)alkyl, and

R^Z = -(C=O)_aO_baryl.

Thus, the claims that encompass Group II are:

1-2, 5-8, 11-12, 25-27, 32-33, 36-37, and 40-42.

Having addressed the outstanding issues, Applicants respectfully request early examination and allowance of the claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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